

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 remain pending. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103

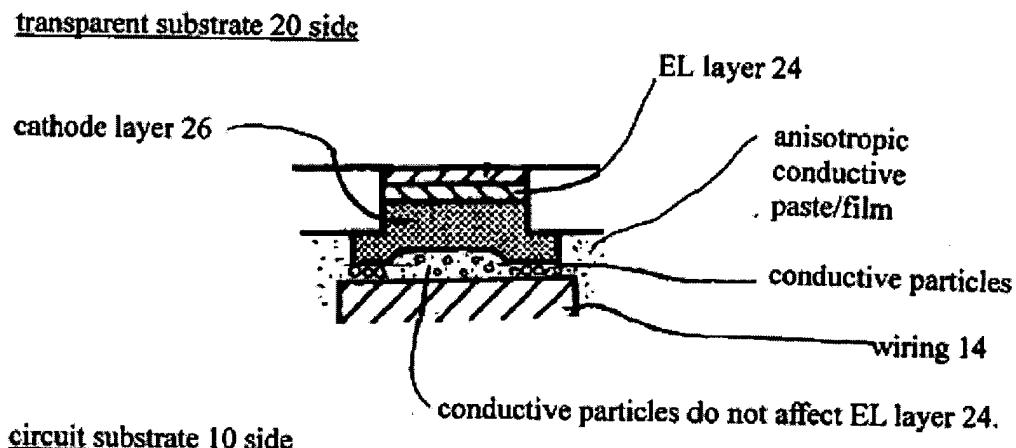
Claims 1, 5-6, 8-12, 17-20 and 23-27 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Swirbel et al. (US 6,091,194) in view of Shi et al (US 5,693,962) and further in view of Smith (US 6,291,896). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 17, 19, 23, and 25 call for the cathode layer to be provided with a protruding portion which protrudes from an opening formed between the banks made of insulating material, and a part of the protruding portion to overlap or cover a part of the banks. Further, the cathode layer is provided with a concave portion formed to correspond to pixel positions (or formed at the center of the cathode layer).

As shown in Fig. 2 of the present application, each cathode layer 26 covers the peripheries of adjacent banks 22. In other words, the cathode layer 26 is provided with protruding portions which protrude over the peripheries of the banks 22. The heights of the protruding portions are greater than the height of a concave portion of the cathode layer 26, and the concave portion is provided above the electroluminescent layer 24. In other words, as shown in FIG. 3 of the present application, the protruding portions are closer to a circuit substrate (a circuit substrate 10 show in FIG. 1) than the concave portion. When joining the circuit substrate 10 and a transparent substrate 20, the two

substrates are electrically connected at positions where the protruding portions overlap the peripheries of the banks 22 via conductive particles included in an anisotropic conductive paste or an anisotropic conductive film inserted therebetween. Since no pressure is applied to the concave portion of the cathode layer 26, the conductive particles do not pass through the cathode layer 26 and enter the electroluminescent layer 24 (please refer to the following Reference Diagram).

Reference Diagram



In contrast to the foregoing, if the structure of the cathode layer 26 were not as claimed (see FIG. 2), that is, if the protruding portions were not provided, pressure resulting from joining the substrates would be applied to a portion of the cathode layer 26 above the electroluminescent layer 24 so that the conductive particles would pass through the cathode layer 26 and enter the electroluminescent layer 24. The entering conductive particles would change the gap between the transparent electrode 21 and the cathode layer 26, thereby causing unstableness and deterioration in

electroluminescent characteristics. Thus, it is extremely important to employ the structure of the cathode layer 26 as claimed.

Swirbel, Shi, and Smith fail to teach or suggest the claimed structure of the cathode layer 26. More particularly, Swirbel, Shi and Smith fail to teach: a cathode layer provided with a protruding portion which protrudes from an opening formed between the banks made of insulating material; a part of the protruding portion overlapping or covering a part of the banks; and a cathode layer provided with a concave portion corresponding to pixel positions (or formed at the center of the cathode layer). Thus, even if combined, the references do not teach or suggest the claimed structure. As such, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 7, 13-14 and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Swirbel et al. (US 6,091,194) in view of Shi et al (US 5,693,962) and further in view of Smith (US 6,291,896) as applied to claims 1, 6, 11, and 19 and further in view of Miyamoto et al. (US 6,039,896). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 7, 13-14 and 21-22 depend directly or indirectly from Claims 1, 6, 11, and 19, respectively, and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above.

Claims 3-4 and 15-16 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Swirbel et al. (US 6,091,194) in view of Shi et al (US 5,693,962) and further in view of Smith (US 6,291,896) further in view of Miyamoto et al. (US 6,039,896), and further in view of Sharpless et al. (US 5,309,060). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

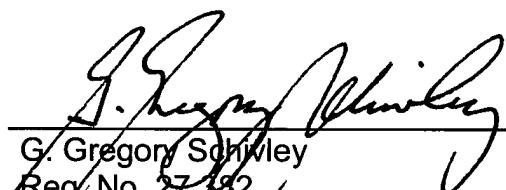
Claims 3-4 and 15-16 depend directly or indirectly from Claims 1 and 11, respectively, and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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